

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Chris Comuntzis on 08 May 2009.

3. The application has been amended as follows:

44. (Currently amended) An encryption key distribution system as in claim ~~[[43]]~~ 38, wherein the mixing function is an XOR function.

45. (Currently amended) An encryption key as in claim ~~[[43]]~~ 38, wherein:

each parent key is generated using the formula $f(f(\text{child_key}) \text{ XOR } \text{OFFSET})$, wherein OFFSET is the offset and f represents a one-way function and wherein child key is the first key of a child node of said parent node.

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

4. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 06 January 2009 has been entered.

5. Claims 1-42, 44, and 45 have been presented for examination.

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6. Claim 43 has been cancelled as per Applicant's amendment.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments, see pages 12-14, filed 06 January 2009, with respect to the prior art rejections have been fully considered and are persuasive. The prior art rejections of claims 1-42, 44, and 45 have been withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

8. Claims 1-42, 44, and 45 are allowed.

9. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

As noted above, the examiner agrees with the applicant's arguments that the prior art does not teach the offset value being representative of a distance between two chains of one-way functions. The examiner was unable to find any teaching, suggestion, or motivation that would render the abovementioned limitation obvious. Therefore, claims 1-42, 44, and 45 are novel and not obvious.

10. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christian LaForgia whose telephone number is (571)272-3792. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Thursday 7-5.

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12. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kambiz Zand can be reached on (571) 272-3811. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

13. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Christian LaForgia/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2439

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